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Macomb County's M-3 to be named for Ronald Reagan

LANSING – The highway M-3 in Macomb County will be named in honor of former President Ronald W. Reagan under legislation that passed the Michigan Senate on Wednesday.

Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township, amended Senate Bill 624, which dealt with highway designations to name M-3, or Gratiot Avenue, the Ronald W. Reagan Memorial Highway.

Sanborn said naming the highway for Reagan was especially appropriate because it was the "Reagan Democrats" who were concerned about the direction and leadership of the United States and crossed party lines to elect the conservative Republican president in 1980 and 1984. National political pundits still point to Macomb County as the home of many Reagan blue-collar supporters.

"Under Reagan's leadership, our nation faced down the Soviet threat while fostering more personal liberty, economic opportunity and national pride," Sanborn said. "He led the country during some of the most important years of the late 20th century and found broad support from people of both parties. We talk about bipartisanship here in the Senate and here's a chance to show that we really mean what we say by honoring President Reagan."